

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

the
**HIT
LIST**
AGENDA

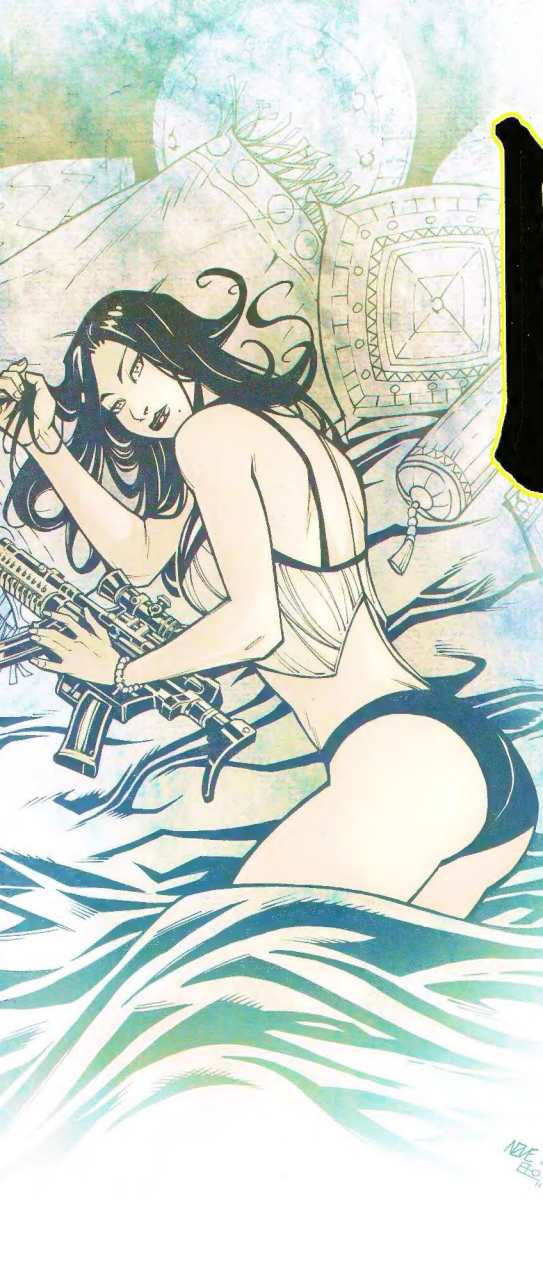
ISSUE #2 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



\$3.50
USA

SEPT 2011 • COVER A
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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

the
HIT
AGENDA

ISSUE #2

VINCE HERNANDEZ
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



NOV 11
FEB 11

RETAILER INCENTIVE
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"LESSON PLAN"

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS AND INKS

OLIVER NOME

COLORS

EMILIO LOPEZ

LETTERING

JOSH REED



PART 2 OF 3

The story so far...

The blood of an innocent child named Lotus, and memories of a lifetime filled with pain and misery haunted the assassin known as Rani until her breaking point. Honorably sacrificing her life unto the hands of the child's father Virat, the contract killer took up her name—and his cause—to elevate the standing of the Republic of India. In just a short time as his Executive Assistant, Lotus's actions have already begun to take deadly effect, and ignite turmoil in the entire region. The Hit List Agenda continues now.



A: DIRECT EDITION
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



B: RETAILER
INCENTIVE EDITION
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editors: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

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Marketing Assistant: STEPHANIE MATSON Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS Hellboy-by: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: LOTUS™ Vol. 1 Issue 2

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FOREST LAWN CEMETERY,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

IT IS
IMPORTANT TO
SHOW GOOD
FACE.

NATURALLY

AFTER MEETING CHING'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, IRIS, I DID MY HOMEWORK
ON WHO EXACTLY SHE WAS. I WISH I HADN'T. SHE IS WHAT I SUSPECTED
SHE WOULD BE. LIKE MYSELF, SHE IS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. NOW,
SHE IS MISSING. WHERE HAVE YOU GONE MISSING TO, IRIS?

MR.
YADAV!
VIRAT!

DIANE
COVERDALE, HOW
WONDERFUL TO SEE
YOU AGAIN, DANIEL,
A PLEASURE AS
ALWAYS.

VIRAT, THE PLEASURE
IS ALL OURS. ONLY I WISH
IT WERE UNDER BETTER
CIRCUMSTANCES. CHING
WAS... A MAN OF GREAT
DETERMINATION.

I WAS JUST TELLING
DAN, IT'S BEEN AGES
SINCE I'VE SEEN THIS
MANY OF HIS OVERSEAS
COLLEAGUES.

WHY MUST IT TAKE
A DEATH BETWEEN
ONE OF YOU TO MAKE
YOU ALL COME OUT
FROM BEHIND YOUR
SMART PHONES.

HA! TRUE INDEED.
I HEAR CHING'S REMAINS
AREN'T EVEN HERE IN THE
STATES, BUT BACK IN HIS
HOMELAND, FOR MORE--
AUTHENTIC-- DEPARTING
SERVICES.

MY MY VIRAT,
I SEE YOU'VE UPGRADED
SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE
HELP DEPARTMENT.

YES, LOTUS IS
HIGHLY CAPABLE
IN MATTERS OF
BUSINESS AND
OPERATIONS.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH, DO
YOU HAVE A
MOMENT?

MEN, ALWAYS
BUSINESS. I GUESS I
SHOULD BLAME MYSELF.
I OPENED THE DOOR
BRINGING UP THEIR
SMART PHONES
AND ALL.



CHING'S
ACCOUNTS WILL
RUN THROUGH
YOUR NETWORK
NOW.

THE ASSETS
WE DECIDED UPON, BUT
MOST IMPORTANTLY
THE SCHOOL BELONGS
TO YOU.

AH, YES.
I'VE BECOME
THE PRINCIPAL,
AS IT WERE.



THIS
IS NOT A
JOKE.

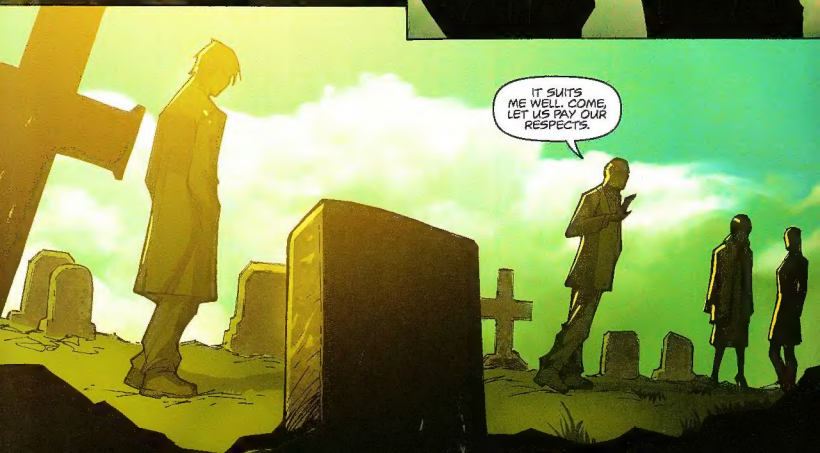
I HAVE
REASON TO
BELIEVE MY LIFE
MAY BE IN
DANGER.

CHING
ANSWERED TO
FAR MORE POWERFUL
PEOPLE THAN HIMSELF.
MY ADVICE TO YOU--
BE CAREFUL WITH
THE SCHOOL.



FUNNY,
YOU SEE--
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL
MAKE A GREAT
'PRINCIPAL'. ALWAYS
CALM UNDER
PRESSURE.

COME, MY FRIEND. A
FUNERAL IS NO PLACE
TO CONTEMPLATE
DEATH.



IT SUITS
ME WELL. COME,
LET US PAY OUR
RESPECTS.

NEW DELHI,
INDIA. NOW.

IT PLEASES
ME TO HAVE
PURPOSE
ONCE AGAIN.

SLEEP, IT
COMES EASIER
THESE DAYS.

BUT STILL I RISE EARLY, I MAKE
SURE VIRAT IS SAFE AND SOUND
BEFORE I START MY DAY.

SO WHEN I HEAR HIS
VOICE OUTSIDE MY WINDOW
BEFORE I'M OUT OF BED,
MY INTEREST IS PIGGED.

SOON, I
WISH I HAD
SLEPT IN.

THE ISRAELI IS A GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL. A POWER PLAYER. I KNOW
HIS IDENTITY BECAUSE I PASSED
ON A CONTRACT TO KILL HIM YEARS
AGO. THE MONEY WASN'T WORTH
THE EFFORT.

THE OTHER MAN IS A
PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL - THE MAN WHO
PROPOSED TO US THE
EMBASSY OPERATION. THE
VERY FACT OF HIS
NATIONALITY RAISES MY
SUSPICION LEVEL EVEN MORE.
THIS IS NOT A COMBINING OF
POLITICAL AGENDAS SEEN
OFTEN IN THIS REGION.

FROM THE COMPANY THAT BRINGS YOU FATHOM, SOULFIRE AND LADY MECHANIKA COMES...

BROKEN PIECES™



AN ALL NEW ORIGINAL SERIES UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE!

#1
FIRST
ISSUE!

WHAT IS
LOST IN LIFE
IS FOUND IN...
DEATH

CREATED & WRITTEN BY

**MARK
ROSLAN**

FULLY ILLUSTRATED BY

**MICAH
KANESHIRO**

A SCI-FI ACTION/
ADVENTURE STORY
THAT WILL REDEFINE THE LIMITS
OF TRUE LOVE...

...AND TEST THE COURAGE
OF ONE MAN'S SOUL.



PUT THE PIECES
TOGETHER
THIS AUGUST

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER...
AN ASPEN TITLE FEATURING
AN ALTERNATE COVER BY SUPERSTAR ARTIST

**ADAM
KUBERT**

"SUPERMAN: LAST SON," "X-MEN"
& "ASTONISHING SPIDER-MAN & WOLVERINE"

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OUR FORTUNES ARE ON THE RISE, GENTLEMEN. CHING'S RATHER... UNFORTUNATE PASSING MEANS ANY FINANCIAL TRAIL OF THE OPERATION ENDS WITH HIM.*

AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, MY SIDE WILL RESPOND IN KIND TO RECENT EVENTS, **THIS MUCH** IS CERTAIN. THEY WILL PRESSURE YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR A RESPONSE AFTER THE EMBASSY ATTACK.

* SEE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, IRIS VOLUME ONE FOR MORE DETAILS.



AND WILL THEY VIRAT? CAN YOU PROMISE THIS?

IT MUST GO AS PLANNED, YOU UNDERSTAND?



YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR WAR FOR FAR TOO LONG. IT'S ABOUT TIME I PROVIDED IT FOR THEM.



EXCELLENT.

GENTLEMEN, I HATE TO BE RUDE, BUT I MUST ATTEND TO PRESSING MATTERS.

OF COURSE...



...AND MANY THANKS TO YOU, AS WELL, FOR YOUR RECENT HAND IN OUR OPERATIONS.

LATER...

DO
YOU TRUST
THEM?

TRUST IS NOT A
LUXURY I'M ABLE TO
KEEP IN THIS INDUSTRY.
LOTUS, YOU KNOW
THAT.

VIRAT, BUT...
DO YOU THINK
WHAT WE'RE
DOING IS...

...WHAT
WRONG?

I TOLD YOU WHEN
YOU FIRST STARTED HERE,
RIGHT AND WRONG DO NOT
ALWAYS PLAY INTO OUR
OBJECTIVES.

IN YOUR PAST
PROFESSION, WHEN
YOUR CONSCIENCE
BEGAN TO REAR IT'S
UGLY HEAD, DID YOU NOT
IGNORE IT IN ORDER
TO COMPLETE YOUR
OBJECTIVE?

YES,
UNTIL IT
BROKE
ME.

THANKFULLY FOR
US, IT IS NOT WE WHO
ARE BROKEN, BUT THE
SYSTEM IN PLACE. AND
WHEN ALL IS SAID
AND DONE...

...OUR ACTIONS WILL
HAVE LED INDIA TO THE
FOREFRONT OF THE
GLOBAL STAGE...

...AND THE
GREATEST THREAT
TO OUR NATION,
PAKISTAN, WILL BE
DEFEATED.

TRUST IN
THAT.

MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM

**A SAFE
HAVEN
NO MORE**

WRITTEN BY X-MEN, TEEN TITANS & THE SCOURGE'S

SCOTT LOBDELL

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MINDFIELD'S

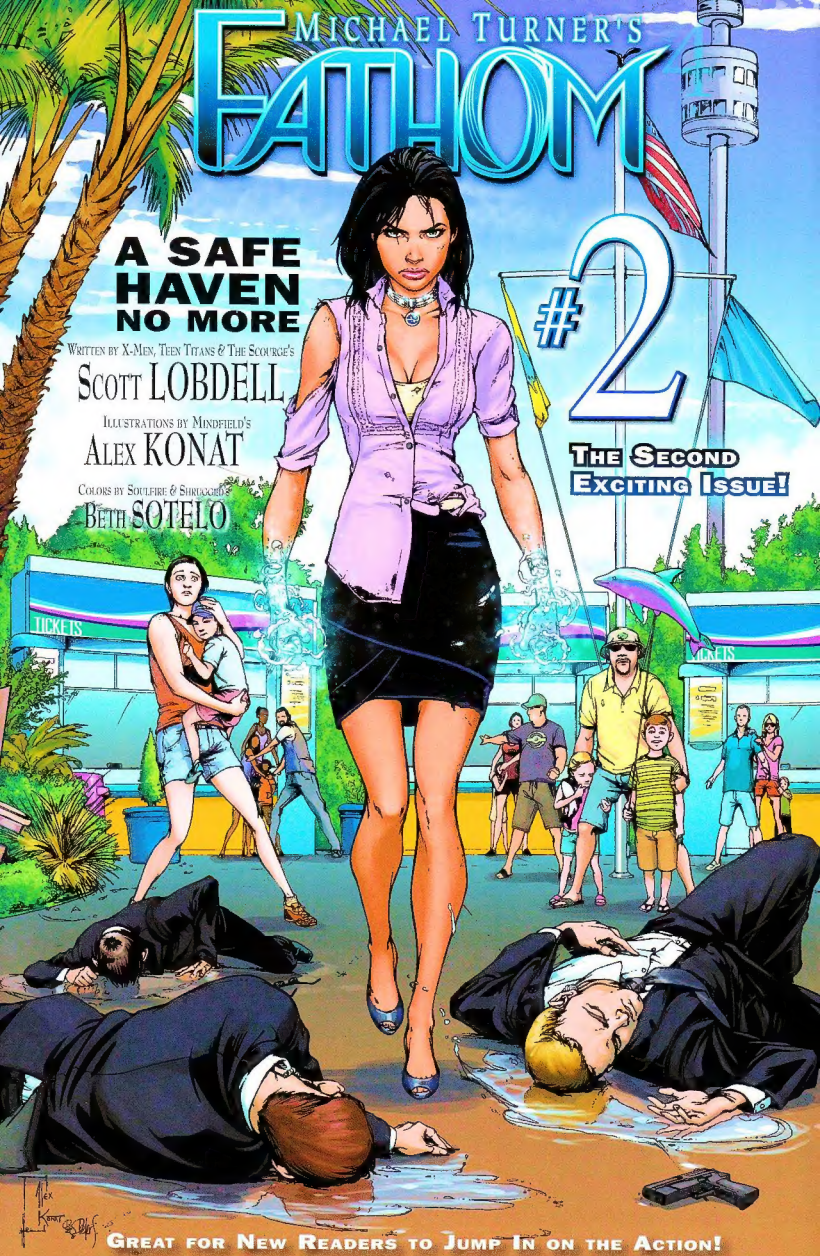
ALEX KONAT

COLORS BY SOULFIRE & SHIRAZDOR

BETH SOTELO

#2

**THE SECOND
EXCITING ISSUE!**



GREAT FOR NEW READERS TO JUMP IN ON THE ACTION!

CORPORATE AND GEO-POLITICAL RESTRUCTURING.
RADICAL EXTREMISM. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SCHOOLS.
HOW DID I FIND MYSELF IN THIS POSITION?

I'M
A
KILLER.

PLAIN
AND
SIMPLE. IT'S
MY CALLING.

IT'S WHAT I'M
GOOD AT.

BUT AFTER THE EMBASSY
AFTER THE... OTHER EVENTS
WE'VE ORCHESTRATED...

...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I AM
ANYMORE.



DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE?

PERFECTION.

I'M FAR FROM
PERFECT, I CAN
ASSURE YOU
OF THAT.

I'VE
SEEN YOUR
WORKOUTS, AND
I BEG TO
DIFFER.



IT WASN'T
ONE OF MY BEST
SETS AND YOU
KNOW IT.

SHOULD I
BE FLATTERED BY
YOUR PRAISE...

...OR
WORRIED
THAT YOU'RE
SUCH A GOOD
LIAR.



I KNOW
MUCH BETTER
THAN TO LIE TO
YOU, LOTUS.



WHICH IS WHY I'M
HERE. I WANT YOU TO
KNOW I WILL BE HEADING
TO MYANMAR IN SEVERAL
HOURS, AND I MUST
GO ALONE ON
THIS TRIP.

YOU DON'T
WANT ME TO
ACCOMPANY
YOU--

NOT THIS TIME. I
NEED YOU TO WATCH
OVER MY INTERESTS
HERE WHILE I'M
AWAY.



PLEASE, I'M FAR
MORE SUITED TO
PREVENT ANY DANGER
YOU MAY RUN INTO
THERE.

I'M GOING
TO VISIT THE
SCHOOL IN THE
VILLAGE OF
YANSON.

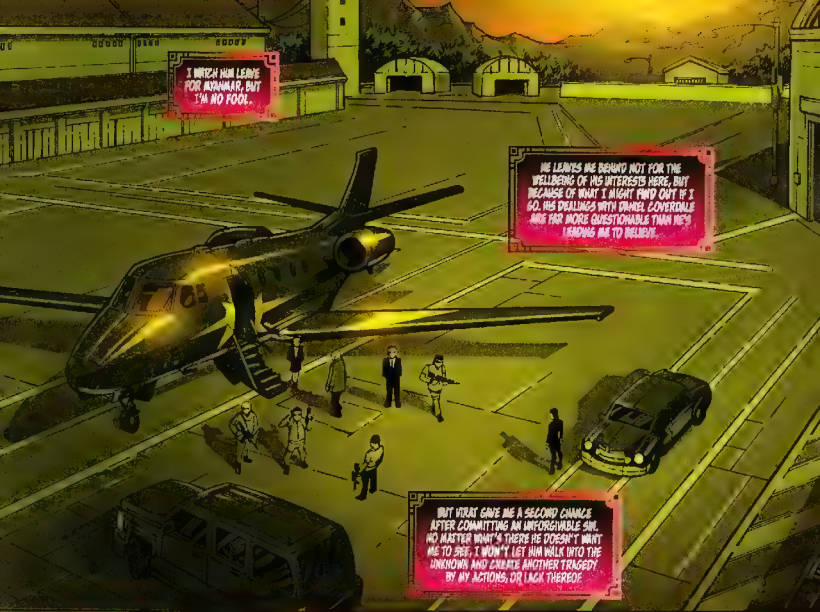
TO MAKE
SURE OUR NEW
INVESTMENT IS
NOT RUN INTO
THE GROUND
BY NOW.



THAT REGION
IS NOT WELCOMING
TO OUR KIND, AND
THOSE SCHOOLS THEY
BREED KILLERS!
BELIEVE ME...

...YOU CANNOT
TRUST SOMEONE
TRAINED TO SPILL
BLOOD.

I WILL BE
FINE, LOTUS. I KNOW
YOU WORRY ABOUT
ME, BUT REMEMBER,
I OWN THE PLACE
AFTER ALL.



I WORTH HIM LEAVE
FOR MYHAWK, BUT
I'M NO FOOL.

HE LEAVES ME BEHIND NOT FOR THE
WELLBEING OF HIS INTERESTS HERE, BUT
BECAUSE OF WHAT I MIGHT FIND OUT IF I
GO. HIS DEALINGS WITH DANIEL COVERDALE
ARE FAR MORE QUESTIONABLE THAN ME'S
LEAVING ME TO BELIEVE.

BUT HURRY GAVE ME A SECOND CHANCE
AFTER COMMITTING AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN.
NO MISTAKE WONT'A THERE HE DOESN'T WANT
ME TO SEE. I WON'T LET HIM WALK INTO THE
UNKNOWN AND CAUSE ANOTHER TRAGEDY
BY MY ACTIONS, OR LACK THEREOF.

I CALL ONE OF MY
CONTACTS FROM MY
PAST. SET UP A PLANE
OF MY OWN TO DEPART
IN THREE HOURS.



HURRY WILL FLY THERE, THEN
TAKE A HALF DAY'S DRIVE TO THE
SCHOOL. I'LL LOSE SOME TIME
LEAVING SEVERAL HOURS AFTER,
BUT MAKE IT UP IN OTHER WAYS.



I TEXT ANOTHER
CONTACT, SET UP
MY LANDING.

THIS WILL HELP TO
SAVE TIME.

I SIT FROZEN IN THE CAR FOR A MOMENT,
WONDERING IF I SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR
ALTOGETHER. THIS PASSES QUICKLY.
THERE IS NO TIME TO SPARE.





ISRAEL HAS STATED
THEY EXPECT A RESPONSE
TO THE EMBASSY BOMBING
SOONER RATHER THAN
LATER OR THE EMBATTLED
NATION WILL RESPOND IN
FORCE. TENSIONS BETWEEN
INDIA AND PAKISTAN--
TWO NUCLEAR-POWERED
NATIONS, REMAIN HIGH
AT THIS POINT.

WITH ALL THE PARTICULARS
COVERED, I HEAD DOWNSTAIRS
FOR THE FUN PART.

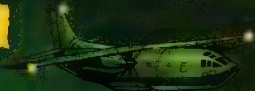
THERE ARE SOME ENJOYABLE
MOMENTS FOR EVERY ASSASSIN.
THEY'RE LYING IF THEY SAY
OTHERWISE.

AND BESIDES,
I AM STILL A
WOMAN.

...AND WE DO LIKE
TO ACCESSORIZE.



THE SKIES ABOVE
MYANMAR.



THE ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD MAKE
VIRAT CRINGE, A DE-COMMISSIONED
MILITARY PLANE. NO SEATS, NO
CAHNR AND NOT TOWELS.

BUT I MUST SAY I
RELEASH THE EXHILARATION
OF THE UNKNOWN.



DZ
COMING UP,
RANI.

IT'S
LOTUS
NOW.



WHATEVER
YOU SAY, RANI.
BE SAFE,
FRIEND.

THANK
YOU, I OWE
YOU ONE.

I
WON'T
LET YOU
FORGET
IT!



I NEED TO SET UP BEFORE VIRAT
ARRIVES. NEED TO SEE THIS PLACE
FOR MYSELF AND LIKE I SAID.



...I GOTTA MAKE UP
TIME WHERE I CAN.

ASPEN COMICS AND
MCG'S WONDERLAND SOUND AND VISION
PRESENT TO YOU...

HAUNTED CITY

FROM THE INNOVATIVE PRODUCER, WRITER, AND DIRECTOR MCG
- THIS MEANS WAR - TERMINATOR SALVATION - CHARLIE'S ANGELS -
- HUMAN TARGET - SUPERNATURAL - CHUCK - NIKITA -

FOR OVER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS,
MILLIONS OF HUMAN SOULS
HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEM
THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS TO NEW YORK CITY...
BUT, SOME OF THEM ALSO BROUGHT

FIRST ISSUE!

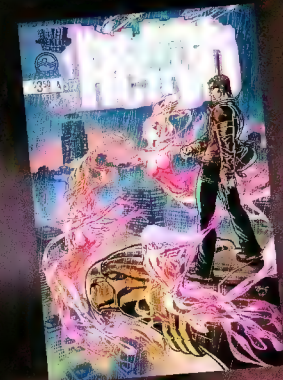
THEIR
NIGHTMARES.

WHO PROTECTS
US FROM
THE
UNKNOWN?

ISSUE #1 - AUGUST

COVERS BY:

MICHAEL RYAN &
LADY MECHANIKA'S
JOE BENITZ



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CHAP TAYLOR

WRITTEN BY:

CHAP TAYLOR & PETER JOHNSON

CHANGING LIVES

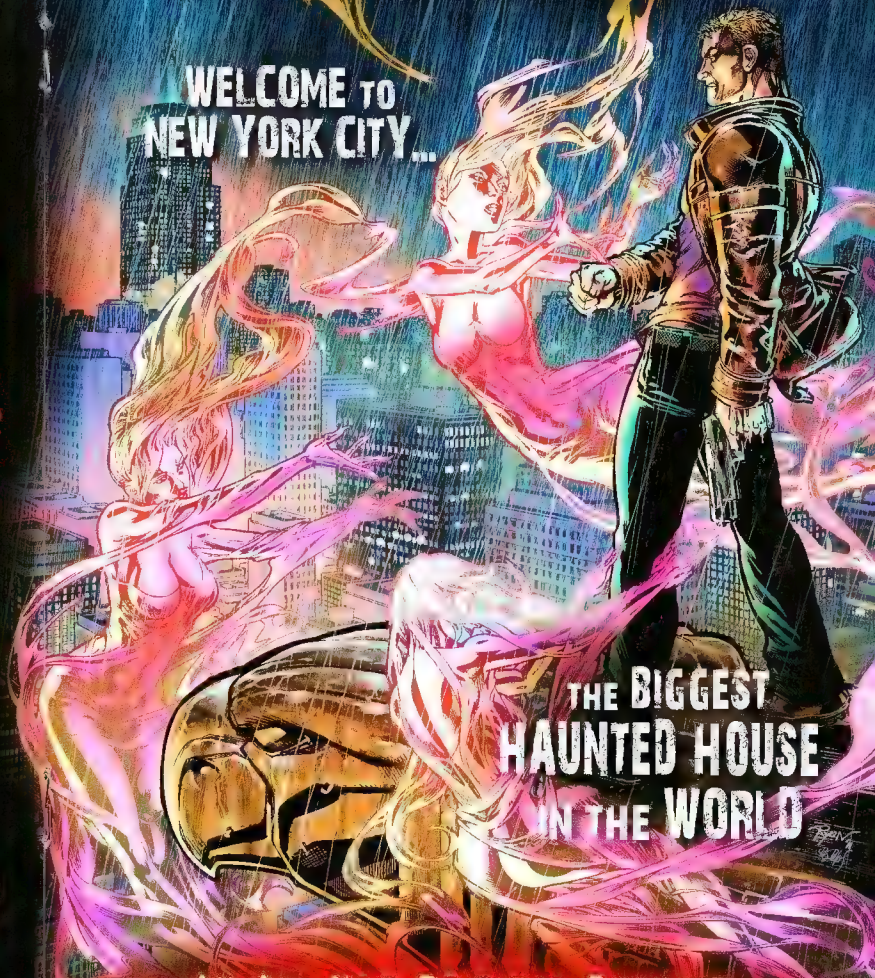
SUPERNATURAL, NIKITA, CHUCK

ILLUSTRATED BY:

MICHAEL RYAN

X-MEN AND RUNAWAYS

WELCOME TO
NEW YORK CITY...



THE BIGGEST
HAUNTED HOUSE
IN THE WORLD

AN ALL NEW ORIGINAL CONCEPT
SIMULTANEOUSLY BEING DEVELOPED INTO A FEATURE SCRIPT,
A TV PILOT, AS WELL AS A MULTI-PLATFORM VIDEOGAME.

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™

#3

EVIL SHOWS ITS FACE

Written By

J.T.

KRUL

Illustrated By

JASON

FABOK

Colored By

JOHN

STARR

FEATURING COVERS BY:

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT'S

JASON FABOK

AND

RUNWAYS AND HAUNTED CITY'S

MICHAEL RYAN

FABOK

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ONCE THERE, I MEET WITH A LOCAL CONTACT IN THE VILLAGE FOR A QUICK RUNDOWN OF THE SCHOOL. IMPROPER RECON WILL GET YOU KILLED. I MAKE THIS TRIP FOR THIS PRECAUTION.



THE SCHOOL LIES IN A SECLUDED PART OF THE VILLAGE. YOUR BEST CHANCE AT ANY SURVEILLANCE IS FROM INSIDE.

HE CONFIRMS WHAT I ALREADY SUSPECTED.




THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.



I SENSE MY CONTACT WAS WITHHOLDING SOMETHING...



...BUT I LACK ENOUGH TIME TO INVESTIGATE.



IDEALLY, I WOULD NEVER
BREAK-AND-ENTER OR SET UP
SURVEILLANCE UNDER DAYLIGHT HOURS,
BUT THE TIMEFRAME DOESN'T ALLOW
FOR OTHERWISE.

VIRAT WILL BE HERE
IN A COUPLE OF HOURS...
MAYBE LESS.



UP CLOSE,
THE EXTERIOR
IS APPALLING.



TIME TO
GET A BETTER
LOOK.



I HAVEN'T LOST MY
AGILITY SINCE JOINING
VIRAT'S LIFESTYLE, NOT
IN THE LEAST. LET'S
HOPE...



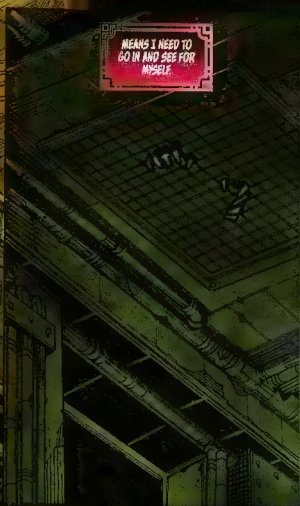
...MY AIM HASN'T
CHANGED EITHER.



IT LOOKS... EMPTY.
NOT GOOD.



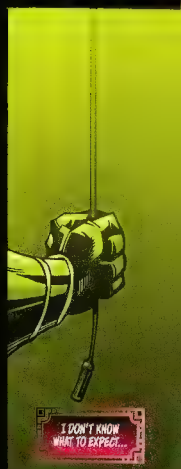
PICKING UP NO
SOUNDS FROM INSIDE
AND ITS MIDNIGHT...
ALSO, NOT GOOD.



MEANS I NEED TO
GO IN AND SEE FOR
MYSELF.



IN MY PREVIOUS LINE OF WORK, I HAD HEARD OF
ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT GRADUATES,
BUT NEVER OF THEIR TRAINING.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT...



...BUT CERTAINLY
NOT TIME.

I'M NOT EVEN SURE
WHAT THIS IS.

THIS LOOKS LIKE...
SOMETHING OUT OF A HORROR
FILM. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY
BE GOING ON HERE?

AND IS THAT...

...BLOOD?

THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH.
I SHOULD REVEAL TO VIRAT
THAT I FOLLOWED HIM. BUT,
HE WOULD NEVER TRUST ME
AGAIN. NOT AFTER MY
PAST HISTORY...

--IF HE EVER
TRUSTED ME TO
BEGIN WITH.

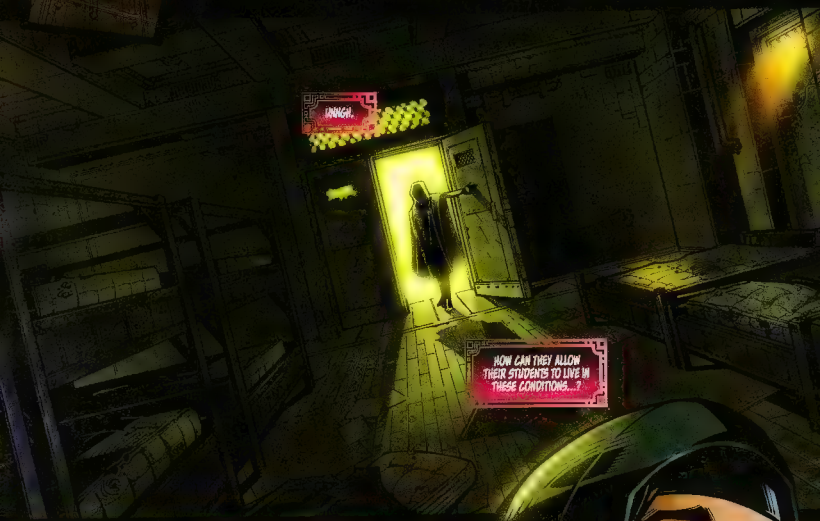
WHATEVER IS GOING ON HERE,
VIRAT CAN'T BE SAFE, SO IT IS
UP TO ME TO PROTECT HIM.



LOCKED
FROM THE OUTSIDE.
YES. NEVER A GOOD
SIGN. GLAD I PACKED
THE SILENCER.

THESE HALLS.

NOT VERY
ACADEMIC.



ENOUGH.

HOW CAN THEY ALLOW
THEIR STUDENTS TO LIVE IN
THESE CONDITIONS...?



THIS IS TOO MUCH.
I NEED AIR.

GASP!

SURPRISED?

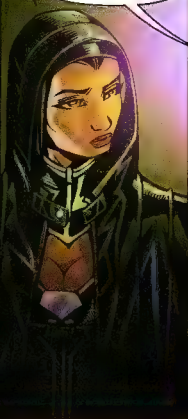
VIRAT---?!

SHOULDN'T I
BE THE ONE TAKEN
ABACK BY YOUR
APPEARANCE
HERE?



I--

NO NEED TO
EXPLAIN YOURSELF
I KNEW YOU'D
FOLLOW ME.



IT'S WHAT
YOU DO BEST--
LIE.

WELL,
BESIDES
MURDER.



I... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

SURE YOU
DO, YOU'RE MUCH
SMARTER THAN
YOU LET ON, RANI.
COME, FOLLOW
ME.



DID YOU REALLY
BELIEVE I COULD
FORGIVE YOU FOR SUCH
AN UNFORGIVABLE
ACT? THAT YOU WOULD
LABOR AWAY YOUR
DEBT TO ME, AND
ALL WOULD BE
FORGOTTEN?

NO!
FORGIVENESS
WAS NEVER AN
OPTION. I USED
YOU UNTIL I NO
LONGER NEEDED
YOU...





AND NOW,
YOU DIE!

TO BE CONCLUDED!
STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT AGENTS!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Lotus

#3

MISSION: SURVIVE!

WRITER: VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS: OLIVER NOME

COLORS: EMILIO LOPEZ

the Hit List AGENDA

The Hit List Agenda Checklist

JUNE 2011

EA: IRIS #0 (PRELUDE)

JULY 2011

EA: IRIS #1

EA: ORCHID #1

EA: LOTUS #1

EA: VIOLET #1

AUGUST 2011

EA: IRIS #2

EA: ORCHID #2

EA: LOTUS #2

EA: VIOLET #2

SEPTEMBER 2011

EA: IRIS #3

EA: ORCHID #3

EA: LOTUS #3

EA: VIOLET #3

OCTOBER 2011

EA: IRIS #4

NOVEMBER 2011

EA: IRIS #5



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Lotus

the Hit List AGENDA

ISSUE #3 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ
OLIVER NOME
EMILIO LOPEZ



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USA

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SHE'S A SECRETARY, BODYGUARD, AND ASSASSIN ALL ROLLED INTO ONE...



DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE OTHER GREAT EA CHAPTERS!

VINCE HERNANDEZ • KHARY RANDOLPH
EMILIO LOPEZ

Charismagic

#3

Deeper
into
the VOID

CREATED & WRITTEN BY:

VINCE
HERNANDEZ

ILLUSTRATIONS BY:

KHARY RANDOLPH

COLORS BY:

EMILIO LOPEZ

"Like a smart magician, the creators here know that the very best part of a magic trick is getting the audience to believe. Watch carefully. Charismagic is about to pull it all right out of its hat."

Brad Meltzer,

Featuring
3 Covers by
Khary Randolph,
Siya Oum,
& Oliver Nome!

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THE HOT NEW SERIES FROM ASPEN COMICS CONTINUES!

Lady Mechanika #3

Welcome
to the
Masquerade

CREATED, WRITTEN,
AND ILLUSTRATED BY:

**JOE
BENITEZ**

COLORS BY:

**PETER
STEIGERWALD**

"VISUALLY, THIS IS ONE OF
THE BEST BOOKS I'VE SEEN
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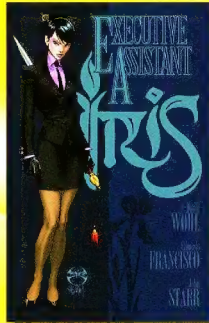
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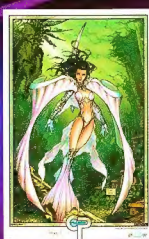




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